Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 10277 251143Z ACTION SCA-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 PPTE-00 SCS-05 /019 W

-----050267 251148Z /43

PR 250827Z AUG 77

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6451

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

CINCPAC

UNCLAS HONG KONG 10277

DEPT FOR SCA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, CPAS (UNDERWOOD, HIRAM D., SP5) SUBJECT: SP5, DIRAM D. UNDERWOOD, USA

REF: HONG KONG 9571

- 1. UNDERWOOD, ASSIGNED JUSMAAG, THAILAND, DENIED ENTRY BANGKOK AUGUST 24 OWING TO LACK PASSPORT. PAN AMERICAN, WHO BOARDED HIM NEW YORK, CARRIED HIM TO HONG KONG FOR PASSPORT ISSUANCE. HE WILL RETURN BANGKOK PA-1, ARRIVING 0145 TWENTY-SIXTH. PLEASE ENSURE HE IS MET UPON ARRIVAL.
- 2. UNDERWOOD'S PREVIOUS DUTY STATION WAS 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION, FORT CAMPBELL, KENTUCKY. HE IS IN POSSESSION OF WHAT APPEAR TO BE STANDARD ORDERS CONTAINING A NUMBER OF ITEMS PERTAINING TO CHANGE OF STATION. THE ITEM PERTAINING TO THE PASSPORT AND/OR VISA REQUIREMENT WAS NOT MARKED AS APPLICABLE. NOTWITHSTANDING THIS, UNDERWOOD SAID HE ASKED A PFC IN THE BASE PERSONNEL OFFICE IF HE NEEDED A PASSPORT AND UNCLASSIFIED

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WAS TOLD HE EID NOT.

3. UPON CHECKING IN WITH PANAM AT KENNEDY AIRPORT, HE WAS ASKED ONLY FOR HIS TICKET. HE SHOWED HIS ID CARD BUT NOT HIS ORDERS. HE SAID HE WAS NEITHER ASKED NOR DID HE ASK IF PASSPORT WAS NEEDED.

4. PANAM WILL ONCE AGAIN INFORM PRINCIPALS IN NEW YORK WHO, HOPEFULLY, WILL MORE FORCEFULLY INSTRUCT COUNTER PERSONNEL AT KENNEDY TO ENSURE THAT BANGKOK BOUND MILITARY PERSONNEL HAVE PASSPORTS. WE HAVE INFORMED PANAM LOCALLY THAT WE WILL AGAIN DO WHAT WE CAN TO ENSURE SUCH UNDOCUMENTED TRAVEL TO THAILAND CEASES. AS WE STATED PARAGRAPH TWO REFTEL, WE BELIEVE REMEDY LIES WITH JUSMAAG TO INSTRUCT EACH AND EVERY PERSON ASSIGNED THAILAND TO NOT LEAVE U.S. WITHOUT PASSPORT. EMBASSY MIGHT WANT CONSIDER HIGH LEVEL APPROACH TO THAI AUTHORITIES TO WAIVE PASSPORT REQUIREMENT FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL ARRIVING COMMERCIALLY. MATTER DISCUSSED WITH BANGKOK CONSULAR SECTION CHIEF ANTIPPAS WHILE IN HONG KONG 24TH AND 25TH AND HE WILL LOOK INTO MATTER AGAIN. OUR DIRECT CONCERN IS THAT HONG KONG IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES MAY BEGIN TO TAKE DIM VIEW OF WHAT WOULD APPEAR TO BE NEVER ENDING PARADE OF MILITARY DENIED ENTRY THAILAND BECAUSE OF ABSENCE PASSPORTS AND ALSO DENY ENTRY HERE THOUGH WE ENJOY EXCELLENT RELATIONS WITH LOCAL IMMIGRATION. WE DO NOT WISH TO DRAW TOO HEAVILY ON OUR CREDIT WITH THEM. IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL TOO IF THE DEPARTMENT CAN EXPRESS TO PAN AMERICAN ITS CONCERN. **CROSS**

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Subject: SP5, DIRAM D. UNDERWOOD, USA TAGS: CASC, CPAS, (UNDERWOOD, HIRAM D)

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